



# EPHRAIM McMILLAN AND MARY DAY McMILLAN



In the year 1848, a son was born to Janet Davis and Daniel McMillan in Liverpool, England. His name was Ephraim McMillan.

In his youth he learned the trade of printing and at the age of nine he could operate a large printing press by himself. He was an apprentice under George Q. Cannon, who then was manager of the Millennial Star, a paper published in Liverpool, England, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He later graduated in printing in Salt Lake City.

The family of Daniel McMillan were converts to the LDS Church, and Ephraim was ordained a Deacon by Elder George Q. Cannon. At the age of 18 he came to America on a ship called "John Brigat." He worked his way over as a sailor and became a lover of water and an expert swimmer. The voyage took seven months, because of trade winds.

They traveled by train and sailed across the Missouri River. Leaving Nebraska, he drove six yolk of oxen, trailing another wagon behind. The oxen were not tame and had to be tied to get their yokes on.

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They had to be herded, and Ephraim and the men in the company were on the watch for Indians, with guns down all the time. He was lost from the others in a blizzard and was unconscious and nearly frozen to death when found.

On the latter half of the journey they were short of feed for the oxen, because of heavy snow and severe weather, many of the animals dying. The company was met by fresh oxen and food from Salt Lake City.

Ephraim was unable to work for a year because of frost-bite he received on the trail, but later he worked on the railroad and was a member of the Utah militia. In this work he had unusual experiences. Once while employed with the Deseret News printing office he met his future wife, Mary Day. They were married in the Endowment House on May 1, 1868. They moved to Heber, later to Daniels Creek, where he farmed, logged and trapped.

To them were born the following 10 children: William, Ephraim, Robert, Nettie, Phoebe, Harriet, Mary Emma and Olive (twins).

When William Buys established the Wasatch Wave, a weekly newspaper in Heber City, Mr. McMillan was employed to assemble the machinery together. Later the family moved to Arizona, but returned to Heber after a few years, and he was employed as a printer for Mr. Buys for many years.

He died August 3, 1925, in Talmage, Utah, where he was living with some members of his family.

His wife, Mary Day, was born in Bokham, Rutlandshire, England, on August 7, 1849. Mary worked with her father, who was a tailor on men's suits and shirts, and she became an expert seamstress, taking such fine stitches by hand on men's shirts that they looked like machine made.

She joined the LDS Church in England at the age of 16 and came to Utah, leaving all her relatives behind. They had planned to come later when they could finance the trip to America. She sailed on the "Mayflower" with missionaries returning home. They crossed the plains with ox teams, arriving in Salt Lake City without friends or relatives. A Mrs. Newman took her to work in her home and nurse her four children. She also lived with Mrs. Stenhouse until she married Ephraim McMillan.

She died on December 30, 1930, in Heber and is buried in Heber City Cemetery.